


Katelyn Reynolds lives out the Great Commission by pouring herself into the children's ministry.

RAISING YOUTH to *Lead Children*



Josiah Brown serves in children's ministry with a deep passion to share Jesus.



One of the blessings of the Kids Ministry Conference is seeing the next generation of children's ministry leaders. Among first-time participants, two young people beautifully fit this description. Both are older teenagers who have grown up in SBC of Virginia churches through children's ministry and now feel called to serve in the very ministries that first taught them to love Christ.

Josiah Brown, a member of **Monumental Baptist Church** in Petersburg, and Katelyn Reynolds, a member of **Living Word Baptist Church** in Lynchburg, are shining examples of dedicated older youth eager to pour into children's ministry. Witnessing the transformation from student to teacher is a powerful blessing—these teens are living out the Great Commission.

Katelyn began leading children under the mentorship of Niky Brooks, Children's Ministry Director at Living Word Baptist Church.

"I have always tried to be intentional about nurturing a child's desire to serve," Niky shared. "Serving starts with handing out goldfish, then leading songs and games, and eventually teaching the lesson. A couple of years ago, during our VBS worship rally, I realized that all of my worship rally leaders, and many of my VBS coordinators, started in our kids' ministry. It is humbling to see,

firsthand, how God uses those who used to sit in my kids' church rows."

Katelyn recalls feeling called to serve from a young age.

"One year during VBS, someone said something that stuck with me: 'You don't have to travel across the world to share the love of Jesus. You can do it right here in Lynchburg.' I thought that was incredible!" she said.

"Serving in children's ministry hasn't just helped the students grow in their faith, it's strengthened mine too. I love working with kids, watching them grow up, and building relationships as they discover who they are and who God is—the One who loves them more than they can imagine."

Josiah serves in children's ministry with a deep passion to share Jesus.

"Josiah has the kind of personality that naturally draws children in. He is an inspiration to watch in action at Monumental Baptist Church," said Pastor Duane Guridy.

"I grew up in the Monumental Baptist Church Gospel Project for most of my life," Josiah shared. "The pastor's wife was my teacher for as long as I can remember. She made the lessons interactive and made every child feel included. Now, I love helping the kids at church because I enjoy building connections with them, whether it's dancing with them or talking about the lesson together." ■



You don't have to travel across the world to *share the love of Jesus*.
You can do it right here...